

CLAIMS

1. A cutting blade for use in a utility knife comprising:
 - a left side and a right side that are generally parallel to one another and have a thickness therebetween, said left side and said right side being generally mirror image quadrilaterals;
 - a front edge and a back edge; and
 - an uneven cutting edge that is different from said front edge and said back edge, and that lies in a plane that is generally parallel to the planes defined by said left side and said right side;
 - wherein said cutting blade provides a cutting edge of less than about 60 mm; and
 - wherein said cutting blade is also intended to be disposable.
2. A cutting blade of claim 1, wherein said left side and said right side are generally trapezoidal in shape.
3. A cutting blade of claim 1, wherein said left side and said right side are generally rectangular in shape.
4. A cutting blade of claim 1, wherein said cutting blade is designed to be mounted in a utility knife housing and is designed to be removable from a said utility knife housing after said cutting blade has been so mounted.
5. A cutting blade of claim 1, wherein said uneven cutting edge comprises at least one point that is a local minimum along the cutting edge such that other positions along the cutting edge immediately adjacent to said one point occupy an elevated position relative to a plane containing said one point oriented perpendicular to the planes generally defined by said left side and said right side of said cutting blade.

6. A cutting blade of claim 5, wherein the number of said points is in the range between and including four and twenty.
7. A cutting blade of claim 6, wherein the number of said points is exactly eight.
8. A cutting blade of claim 6, wherein said points are equally spaced from one another along said cutting edge.
9. A cutting blade of claim 6, wherein the cutting edge between said points traverses a smooth arc of the shape of one of a circle, an ellipse, a hyperbola, and a parabola.
10. A cutting blade of claim 1, wherein said thickness is less than about one and one half millimeters.
11. A cutting blade of claim 10, wherein the longest length of a side of said cutting blade is less than about 60 millimeters.
12. A utility knife comprising:
 - a cutting blade comprising:
 - a left side and a right side that are generally parallel to one another and have a thickness therebetween, said left side and said right side being generally mirror image quadrilaterals;
 - a front edge and a back edge; and
 - an uneven cutting edge that is different from said front edge and said back edge, and that lies in a plane that is generally parallel to the planes defined by said left side and said right side; and
 - a housing to which said cutting blade is mounted, said housing having a length for use as a handle by which one grips said utility knife; and
 - wherein said cutting blade is intended to provide a short cutting edge extending beyond

said housing by less than about one fourth of said length of said housing; and
wherein said cutting blade is intended to be disposable.

13. A utility knife of claim 12 wherein said blade is intended to be replaceable within a reusable utility knife housing.

14. A utility knife of claim 12 wherein said cutting edge of said blade is repeatably retractable into said housing and extendable from within said housing.

15. A method of cutting comprising:

providing a cutting blade comprising:

a left side and a right side that are generally parallel to one another and have a
thickness therebetween, said left side and said right side being generally
mirror image quadrilaterals;

a front edge and a back edge; and

an uneven cutting edge that is different from said front edge and said back edge,

and that lies in a plane that is generally parallel to the planes defined by said
left side and said right side;

puncturing a surface of an object to be cut; and

moving said cutting blade using only one of a pushing and pulling motion in a direction
generally parallel to the direction of the cut.